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Broward Chapter Florida Native Plant Society

February 2013 News



Rhizophora mangle (Red Mangrove), Everglades. [Alan Cressler](#) by permission

The Promise of Biomimicry

People support the Florida Native Plant Society for a variety of reasons: to prevent the extinction or extirpation of native plants in the wild, to protect natural areas and wildlife, to create sustainable yards and landscapes, to attract butterflies and birds, and to learn to identify the plants extant before European settlement.

Native plants are also a source of scientific information about how nature solves the challenges of survival, reproduction, food, energy, structure, drought, overcrowding, and much more. During 3.8 billion years of evolution, plants and wildlife have adapted and still adapt to survive and thrive. Research is just beginning to look closely at the macro and micro process of native plants and natural communities to understand these processes. The way plants and wildlife process chemicals, build structures, fulfill their energy needs, and create communities may help us solve the similar problems faced by human development *without harming the environment*.

Biomimicry looks at the scientific and application implications of nature's designs and processes to develop sustainable solutions. A very broad overview of the [Promise of Biomimicry](#) is one of the TED Talks (also on our [coontie.org "Galleries"](#) page) by Janine Benyus.

DON'T MISS THIS TALK ... Sustainable Landscapes

At a local and more personal level we are working to live more sustainably. [Steve Woodmansee](#), February's Feature Speaker, has put into practice sustainable landscaping that we can use in our own yards, residential landscapes, local parks, and workplace landscapes (see "Featured Speaker" below).

Very few people can identify as many native plants, understand as much about their cultivation, or have such a broad understanding of plant communities statewide as Steve. He is current President of the Florida Native Plant Society and owner of Pro Native Consulting. Among his accomplishments are 11 years and continuing work with the [Institute for Regional Conservation](#).

Trashing Nature

Trash and garbage in our natural areas and parks is an all-too-common sight. We, the public, must make it unacceptable and do what it takes to keep trash out of natural areas. Frankly, it's a bit overwhelming, and it is complex. It is about trash blowing out of trucks, roadways feeding trash to canals and rivers, homelessness, trash from boats, childrearing practices and adult education, non-biodegradable food and product containers, underfunding of parks, and acceptance of trash everywhere. It is not, however, inevitable. Some communities do keep nature free of trash. We removed four trash bags of garbage a week from a small Secret Woods riverfront area. It washed up from the river on every tide. It was totally overwhelming and we never did get the mangroves and forest plants free of trash. Clearly a more general trash prevention campaign is required. Support Broward cleanup wherever you can. Ask that your local taxes, business efforts, and public education dollars be spent on cleanup.



13 February Featured Speaker

Visit [Coontie.org "Calendar"](#)

Wednesday, Feb 13, 7:00 pm
Steve Woodmansee, featured speaker
"Creating an Ecologically and Sociologically Sustainable Landscape"

Over the past several decades, home-owners & developments throughout the United States have evolved toward practices of isolation, wastefulness, and unsustainable regulation.

Steve will present his theories of why these practices have taken place and will offer a counter solution, providing a holistic approach to home landscapes. Using his methods, home-owners will learn how to provide sustainable habitat for indigenous plants and animals, augment food production in an easy fashion, reduce water and energy waste, broaden our sense of community, and much more. At the end of the talk, Steve will engage the audience in a colorful discussion over these issues.



At Secret Woods Nature Center [2701 W State Road 84, Dania Beach, FL 33312](#) (park entrance Westbound State Road 84)

23 February Field Trip

Visit



[Coontie.org "Calendar"](#)

Saturday, Feb 23, 9:00 am
Lee Lietzke, Site Manager
"Explore the Yamato Scrub Plant Communities"

Walk the very pleasant 217 acre Yamato Scrub just north of Broward County near Hwy 95 with Lee Lietzke, site manager. We will see many common native species and with a little luck wildlife, birds, and butterflies. Novice to expert will enjoy seeing, photographing, learning, and perhaps discovering a few uncommon species.

Local rendezvous departs 9:15 am sharp (arrive 15 minutes before) at Lauderdale Shopping Center at [1111 Florida \(State Rd.\) 84, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33315](#) (1 mile east of US 95) or proceed directly to Yamato Scrub site at: 701 Clint Moore Rd., Boca Raton, FL 33487 (the entrance is located on the north side of Clint Moore Rd., just east of Congress Ave.; meet in the small parking area at 10:00 am).

Conference Registration is now open!

Our amazing Ixia Chapter FNPS has put together a wonderful list of field trips throughout Northeast Florida and a trio of great evening socials (super value).

Register early and save money -- and get on that trip you always wanted, reserve a place at the dinner table with old friends or new ones, and look forward to celebrating La Florida, the land of flowers, this May 16-19, 2013, in beautiful Jacksonville!
More info: [www.fnps.org/conference](#)

REGISTER NOW: <https://www.eventville.com/catalog/eventregistration1.asp?eventid=1010214>

See you soon in Jacksonville!



EVEN IF YOU NEVER ATTEND ... JOIN or RENEW

Although we enjoy seeing our members and having great turnouts, if you can't or don't choose to attend Chapter events, *you can still support the work* of the Broward Chapter and the Florida Native Plant Society statewide. "Joining" doesn't obligate you to do anything more. When you choose the Broward (Coontie) Chapter as "your" chapter, it supports us locally. All contributions are tax deductible as IRS 501(c)(3) nonprofit gifts. Please [Join](#) or [Renew](#).

Join & support our work at [Coontie.org "Join"](#)
Protecting & Growing Broward Native Plants